

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

April 29, 2022

The Honorable Chellie Pingree
Chair
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and
Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Dave Joyce
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and
Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Pingree and Ranking Member Joyce:

We greatly appreciate your past support for the National Environmental Education Act (NEEA), and we respectfully request the Subcommittee on Interior and Environment continue its support for this critical component to addressing and understanding climate impacts. We ask that you continue funding this successful program at the authorized level of \$14 million for Fiscal Year 2023.

As you make your funding decisions, we ask that you take into account the following:

- NEEA programs are essential to educating millions of Americans, including students, with the science-based information they require to understand and take action on climate impacts, such as drought, wildfires, sea level rise and extreme weather events that are affecting communities across the nation.
- NEEA funding allows the EPA to engage in education efforts with local communities and the private sector to enhance public understanding of how to address climate change impacts and other pressing environmental issues. This is particularly true for communities of color that are disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change.
- Fact-based environmental education and engagement for all communities—especially when complementing, aligning with, reinforcing, or anticipating regulatory authority—can accelerate climate resilience and adaptation measures.
- Environmental education spurs action to create healthy, livable communities that are more resilient to climate impacts and attract jobs for all Americans, including underserved and underrepresented communities.
- Since 1990 NEEA has been a highly effective, non-regulatory tool for improving student performance in science and math and protecting public health.
- Congress has consistently funded this program, which has been strongly supported by local communities, public health officials, educators, and industry.


- The Act utilizes public-private partnerships to highly leverage scarce federal resources.

Programs funded through this act have far-reaching and well-documented positive impacts. They enable citizens from communities across the nation to make informed, scientifically sound decisions regarding energy consumption, water quality, and conservation at home, school, and in the workplace. These programs also provide practical applications for math, science, technology, and engineering education. Research indicates that this type of education increases critical thinking and the problem-solving skills necessary to foster innovation and keep America competitive in a fiercely global economy.

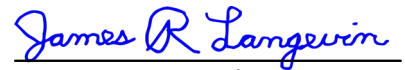
NEEA Grants have been awarded in all 50 states, the territories, and the District of Columbia, totaling more than 4,000 grants that support high quality, high impact educational programs that address local priorities and needs. They are effective because they allow students to apply science in a real-world context and perform better on standardized tests in reading, math, writing, social studies, and science. This helps America close the education gap with other countries.

Thank you for your consideration of our request to fund NEEA programs at \$14 million for Fiscal Year 2023.

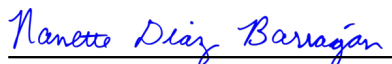
Sincerely,




Joe Neguse
Member of Congress




James R. Langevin
Member of Congress




Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



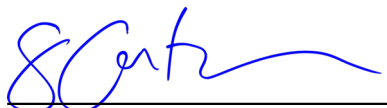
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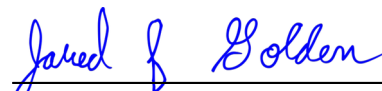
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Veronica Escobar
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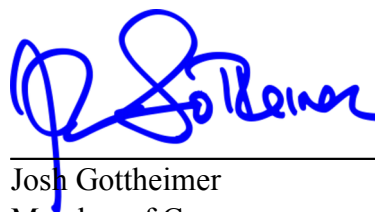
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Member of Congress



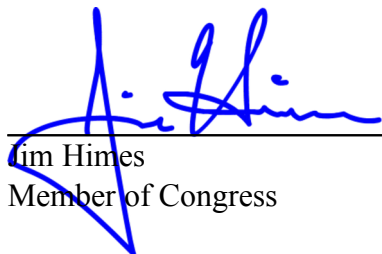
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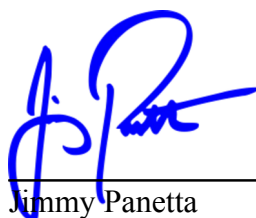
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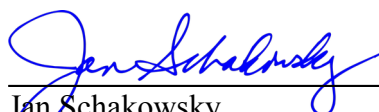
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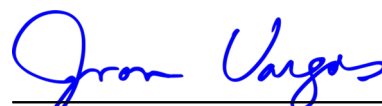
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